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PETITION OF CAPTAIN BROWNE TO LORD BURGHELEY,

RELATIVE TO HIS ESTATE IN MAHEE ISLAND, COUNTY DOWN, (PROBABLY WRITTEN IN 1572.)

See Dr. Reeves' *Description of Nendrum*, commonly called Mahee Island, 4to, 1845; also his *Eccelesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor, and Dromore*, p. 187, &c.

COMMUNICATED BY EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY, M.A.

From the State Paper Office, Whitehall, London.

To the right honorable my Lorde of Burley,

Right Honorable, I doo humbly crave your honor's favor and do beseeche the same to have consideration of my case, in this respect that I was the first of our nacyon that did, in a dangerous and rebellyous time of Turloghe Lenoghe then invading that country, sett downe in the wast place of Clandeboye in the north of Irelande uppon the lande of the Bisshopp of Downe, called Ilande Mac-hye, with his appurtenances, being viii towne as by their names may appere, then havinge a lease of the late Bisshopp John^a of the same lands for his lieff, at xx^s. Irish a towne, as well for the spiritu-alties as for the temporalties of the same, (a towne is a plowe lande,) and also havinge a bonde of the said Bisshope of ijc. li to make to me astate of the same in fee-farme, upon weh lands your petycioner did builde a castle^b that cost him fowre hundreth marks and upwards as my late Lorde Deputye can reporte.

And since that your honor's petycioner hath been a suiter a longe time at the Court, the said Bisshopp is deade, and hath not made to him astate in fee-farme of the premisses, so that nowe your honor's petycioner hath no right or title to the saide house and lands; I doo therfore beseeche and crave your honor's favor to bee my good L. to this effect, that the next^c bisshopp of Downe that her Matie shall make, may bee enjoyned, (upon the considerations aforesaide,) to make to me an estate of the same in fee-farme, that another doo not reape the fruite of my labour and expences.

^a John Merriman, Bishop of Down, dead before the 6th of July, 1571.

^b "At the northern extremity of the Island are the roofless walls of an ancient square castle, similar in

structure to those which abound along the shores of Strangford Lough."—*Reeves' Description of Nendrum* p. 30.

^c Hugh Allen, succ: 1573.

And wherea I understande that Sr Bryan Machfelim keepeth a warde in my house, I doo beseech your honor that I may have your honor's and my lords of the Counsell's letters to my L. Deputy to give me possession of my house againe.

And whereas there is not a deane and chapitre to that see of Downe, neither hath been a longe time, and without a dean and chapitre no assurance of any of the Bisshop's wast lands can bee made to any man by the Bisshopp.

And without assurance by lease for a long time no man will buyld upon those wast lands, and thereby it shallbee both hurtful to the Bisshoprick, and to the cuntry itself, because the Bisshop hath great lands in *that partyes*. (*sic.*)

I doo beseeche your honor to bee a meanes to her Matie to make a Deane of Downe, apoyntinge suche lyvinge to the office out of the Bisshoprick as her Matie by your honor's advise shall thinck good, for that there is not as yett neither the saide office nor any certayne lyvinge to the same.

Yt may also please your L. to bee meane for me to her Matie to geve me the reversion of the Cunstable-shipp of the Castile of Knockfargus in soche sorte as Captayne Piers hath it. Your honor's favor and good lykinge in theis my poore suites I doo humbly crave, and I shal bee ever your Lordeshippes bounden at comaundment.

(*endorsed*) "Captayne Browne,"

ULSTER ROLL OF GAOL DELIVERY, 1613—1618*

Amongst the ancient Records of the Court of Exchequer which are deposited in the Exchequer Record Office, at the Four Courts in Dublin there is to be found a Roll, by which it appears that, between the years 1613 and 1618, the Justices of Assize and Gaol Delivery proceeded to try the criminals who were then confined in the gaols within the province of Ulster. By this Record, which consists of 100 membranes of parchment, and which is written in contracted Latin, we are informed of the names of the jury appearing upon the Inquests, of the names of the delinquents and the crimes of which they were accused, of their acquittal or otherwise, and of the sentences which were pronounced by the Judges; but of the more interesting particulars of those proceedings, such as the

* Made no doubt in pursuance of Writs of Certiorari, which were issued by the Court of King's Bench, directing the Clerks of the Crown in the province of Ulster,

to make a return to that Court of 'all treasons, and felonies, and the misprision thereof, therein committed.'